

Rec'd 5/14/70

Sunday morning (5/10/70)

Dear Sylvia,

Well, where to begin? It's been quite a week. I finished my 12th chapter yesterday morning and in the afternoon the four of us went down to take part in a giant anti-war demonstration which ended up at the American Embassy, guarded, it so happened, by 600 of Denmark's finest. This was the largest anti-war demonstration in Denmark's history and one of the ugliest. After the speeches were over, suspecting trouble, I took Nancy and the kids home and then went back by myself. Four blocks from the Embassy my motorcycle was engulfed by a vast crowd fleeing from the police, who had just charged them unexpectedly, swinging their truncheons. I parked and wandered over to see what was going on, and it was here that I learned something of the paranoia the young in America must feel. The police suddenly swept up the sidewalk where I was standing, pushing and clubbing people before them. Not everyone -- that was the interesting thing -- only the younger people, those who to a Danish cop looked under thirty. I'm complimented -- one of them took a swing at me with his truncheon but missed; I stumbled into a building and came out when the wave had passed. But this gave me a very vivid understanding of what the young in America must feel -- they're after me! And the raw courage of the young has to be admired tremendously. One group forced the police ~~to~~ to break ranks and run, chased them back to their police station, and were only kept out of the station by the police barricading the doorway with tables and chairs!

It appears now that the bankruptcy of the Nixon "withdrawal" policy is open for anyone to see. From the beginning it was silly, based on the contradictory premise that he could secure the maintenance of the Thieu-Ky junta while at the same time withdrawing the American troops that kept them in power. Now the veil has been lifted for everyone to see and the Emperor is left with no clothes. But I expect that all the chickens won't come home to roost until next fall, when the S. Vietnamese will be heavily engaged in fighting in Cambodia, while the N. Vietnamese will have been given time to mount a general offensive in I Corps. At that point Nixon will come on TV and say that to protect American lives he has invaded N. Vietnam (I read in the Herald Tribune that this was one element in the presently executed plan for widening the war). At the same time, to forestall massive demonstrations and unrest in the Universities, Mitchell will launch a campaign to discredit the intellectual community, followed, if it succeeds, by massive round-ups of so-called "subversives." At that point a genuine resistance movement will form, and over the next few years, will be exterminated, leaving some quasi-dictatorial group in power. And the only way I can see this scenario avoided is if Congress intervenes and prompts a first-rate constitutional crisis. The strange thing about all this, I think, is that in a way it points out a weakness in the constitution itself. Given a parliamentary form of Govt., the administration, I think, would have fallen in the last week, prompting a call for new elections and a general clearing of the atmosphere. But that can't happen in the US, and may turn out to be a key institutional flaw. In any case we're coming back on August 10, come hell, or a right-wing takeover.

Thanks so much for the info on the Chicago caper (whatever his name is). I noted with some glee LBJ's silly-ass censoring of the CBS interview.

Well, Sylvia, the next few months should be very interesting. Can't wait to talk with you and get your ~~character~~ charac-

teristically acute judgments on all this. Over here, in talking to Danes, one feels that one is living through a scenario that has been repeated countless times in Europe in the last half-century. The very familiarity of it, and the helplessness that goes along with this feeling, is what is so annoying. Take care, old friend, and tell me how things look from your side.

Best love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Tom', written in dark ink.